



**Australian Honey Bee
INDUSTRY COUNCIL**

Annual Report

2018/19





The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) aims to maximise the efficient use of industry resources and funds to ensure the long term economic viability, security and prosperity of the Australian Honey Bee industry in Australia.

We foster, promote, enhance and protect the interests of the Australian Honey Bee Industry and the vitality of its members and represent industry policy at all levels of government, private enterprise and the public.



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Chair report

Peter McDonald

The last twelve months have been extremely busy for AHBIC and, as the peak national body, we have been representing and strongly advocating for you all and the honey bee industry. The AHBIC Executive consisted of myself as Chair, Stephen Fewster (WA) as Vice Chair, Leilani Leyland (WA), Kevin MacGibbon (Vic), Jodie Goldsworthy (NSW) and Peter Barnes (Qld). In conjunction with our Executive Director Trevor Weatherhead and newly appointed CEO on Trevor's retirement, Sarah Paradice, we have all worked closely with our stakeholders to raise the profile of our industry, advocate on your behalf and build stronger relationships.

Public allegations of adulteration in honey has consumed a large amount of AHBIC's limited resources in the past year. I still feel saddened that these allegations were made in the public sphere providing AHBIC no chance to investigate. Since the allegations were made, both the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and scientists determined there was no case to answer, but damage had already been done. Some members of our Honey Bee community were adversely affected as collateral damage to the negative media attention. AHBIC continues to work through issues in regard to improving testing and verification capabilities in conjunction with our strategic partners.

Our honey levy program and associated strategic partners are very important to us; we highly value them:

- Agrifutures - a critical partner since the 1960's and where a portion of our levy money is allocated for research and



development. This year we attended a workshop hosted by Agrifutures to set a new five-year strategic plan for research and development priorities for our industry. This will be available on the [Agrifutures website](#) shortly. Also, this year a number of projects were completed including [Review of honey bee industry levies and fees](#) and [Propolis Production: A Potential Boon for the Australian Beekeeping Industry](#). You are able to view all [current and completed projects](#) on the Agrifutures website so please utilise this great resource and sign up to their free [newsletter](#) to stay up to date with their latest research, events and activities.

- [Plant Health Australia](#) (PHA) – another critical partner managing our levy money for several biosecurity programs which have been developed to help protect Australia’s honey bees from exotic pests, and to preserve the pollination benefits. These include National Bee Biosecurity Program (Biosecurity Code of Practice, Bee Biosecurity Officers), the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program (NBPSP), Online Training Biosecurity for Beekeepers and the [Bee Aware website](#). Keep up to date with free [PHA](#) and [Bee Aware](#) newsletters for latest information. PHA were pivotal in their assistance responding to recent biosecurity activities including Townsville 2016 *Varroa jacobsoni*, Darwin May 2018 *Apis cerana*, Port of Melbourne June 2018 *Varroa destructor*, Townsville May 2019 *Apis cerana* and suspected *Varroa jacobsoni*. A new harmonisation subcommittee has also just been formed to consider how we can reduce complexities of crossing borders between states. A great initiative but will likely be a slow process as it involves all states, their legislation and potential impacts on wider state control.

- [Federal Department of Agriculture](#) in addition to State Departments (who provide valuable support for our biosecurity programs and responses). The Federal Government collects and distributes our levies as outlined by the Agrifutures image in Figure 1 below. In addition, we liaise with Government for imports/exports, National Residue Testing, border control, National Measurement Institute (honey testing methods such as NMR), and partnership in NBPSP. In preparation for biosecurity responses, there is also plenty of training continuously occurring, often funded by Federal or State Governments in conjunction with our levies, such as Exercise Bee Prepared and the Industry Liaison Officer training.

The review into our levies is an important Agrifutures project. We need to ensure we have sufficient funds and will consult with industry in the near future about a change to levies and the possibility of a marketing/pollination levy. The media event surrounding adulterated honey in 2018/19 highlighted the need to have more promotional resources available to better inform consumers.

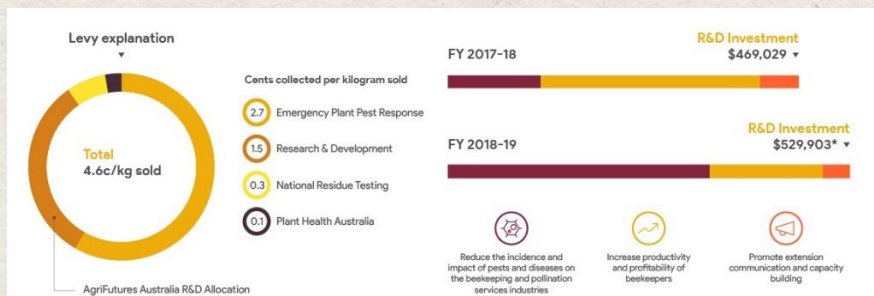


Figure 1: The Honey Levy, Source: Agrifutures

Other strategic partners we work closely with are the horticulture industry, CRC for Honey Bee Products and When Bee Foundation.



Lastly and most important of our partners are our Friends of AHBIC – we value your contribution as Friends of AHBIC to help fund our advocacy activities, particularly given we do not receive any levy money.

We have also had a busy year in terms of internal change, developing a new strategic plan, the retirement of Trevor Weatherhead as Executive Director and the recruitment of Sarah Paradice as the new CEO. We have also lost two other critical people, although they are still available as industry experts should we need their help - Lindsay Bourke, three-time Chair of AHBIC and Ian Zadow, previous AHBIC Chair, a champion for better biosecurity and Chair of our Disease and Quarantine Committee. I'd like to thank and acknowledge Trevor, Lindsay and Ian for their service to our industry which is greatly appreciated.

Change is everywhere now and we must be nimble enough to grasp it. Our industry is changing, we are growing and it is a very exciting time to be in the Honey Bee industry. We have never had so many registered beekeepers as we do now, we have never had so many scientists researching as we do now, we have never had as much potential for growth and development as we do now. To meet these challenges we have once again employed a full time CEO to help us move forward. To make it work we need more support than ever and as an industry we must unite and work together. We need every Honey Bee industry member to be a Friend of AHBIC.

2018/19 was a great year of challenges and successes and I'm looking forward to working with you all throughout 2019/20.

Chief Executive Officer's report

Sarah Paradise

I joined AHBIC on 2 January 2019 on the retirement of industry stalwart and Executive Director Trevor Weatherhead, who was supported by a dedicated Marion Weatherhead. A very big thanks at the outset to both Trevor and Marion for their excellent handover. While I'm no expert yet, they have provided me the best possible start and I am grateful for their help. I am not a beekeeper but have been engaged for a different skill set. My background is an Agricultural Economics degree from University of New England in Armidale and an MBA, also from UNE. I also completed an Associate in Risk Management while working for three years in the insurance industry in London. I've also held finance roles within the banking sector and in membership based not-for-profits so I understand the challenges in balancing many priorities with limited resources. While not a beekeeper, I do have experience in other agricultural sectors, beef cattle and sheep. We live on a small farm near Yass/ Canberra where we run Angus cattle and where I have a home office for AHBIC.

Prior to joining AHBIC, I was CEO of Institute of Foresters of Australia and Australian Forest Growers, so I have many contacts within the forestry industry. I plan to improve communication and collaborate more closely with forestry regarding forest management in state forests. I have started this process by speaking to many old forestry colleagues and explaining the issues faced by beekeepers in terms of multi-species, multi aged resources in state forests and prescribed burns. We've also met



with forestry's peak industry body Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) CEO Ross Hampton and Senior Policy Advisor Victor Volante; meeting between the two industry peak bodies to date has not occurred so it has been a valuable step. We have plans for further engagement in the second half of this year and I will continue to maintain contact.

Following on from Trevor's work, we will be hosting a small Resource Workshop, with key representatives from each State, in Tasmania following the AHBIC AGM to explore issues around access to state forests by State with the view to mapping out a path forward. Thank you to Agrifutures for providing the financial support to conduct this workshop which will be facilitated by Tim Burfitt with Michael Clarke from AgEconPlus as project report writer; both experienced in the beekeeping industry. The report for this workshop will be complete and available later this year.

My plans for the foreseeable future will be to implement the new Strategic Plan developed by your Executive. This includes advocacy, access to floral resources (forestry), access to domestic/international markets, biosecurity, communications plan, funding (Friends of AHBIC and exploring alternative funding sources), and representation at key meetings.

I'll be particularly focussed on the Communications Plan as I see better communication to be advantageous across a number of areas. This includes the option of a combined newsletter with other interested group; the format could be national news followed by news and information by State. I also see an opportunity for AHBIC to use social media and will set up an AHBIC Facebook page. We'll also increase our use of media releases when we need to communicate key messages.

Communications between AHBIC and State Associations and Members (and vice versa) will also provide improved opportunities for collaboration and a unified voice when advocating. Improved communications and collaboration with forestry too, as outlined earlier. We'll also look at ways we can better stay connected to and support our key stakeholders.

Both Peter and I have been travelling to all State conferences and while its been a whirlwind, it has been great to meet so many of you and to hear about issues you're concerned about. I really encourage you to support your AHBIC Executive, Committees and unite as an industry; united we can better advocate key messages and drive the industry forward. We are a critical component of the agricultural sector of course, not just for honey but pollination services. The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) has laid down a bold vision for the agricultural industry: to exceed \$100 billion in farm gate output by 2030. The NFF will be relying on industries such as almonds and avocados to contribute to this growth so as an industry we can also do our bit, look to developing higher value honey and bee products and stepping up to meet the increasing demand for pollination services. I am looking forward to working in this exciting industry!



About AHBIC

Organisation

Our organisation's main role is to protect and promote the Australian honey bee industry. Our members are made up of representatives of various sections of the bee keeping industry in Australia.

AHBIC is made up of six State Associations and three National Associations, each representing various sections of the beekeeping industry in Australia:

- NSW Apiarists' Association
- Queensland Beekeepers' Association
- Victorian Apiarists' Association
- South Australian Apiarists' Association
- Western Australian Farmers – Beekeepers Section
- Tasmanian Beekeepers' Association
- Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association
- National Council of Pollination Associations
- Honey Packers and Marketeers Association of Australia Inc.

Constitution

The AHBIC mission is:

'To maximize the efficient use of industry resources and funds to ensure the long term economic viability, security and prosperity of the Australian Honey Bee Industry in Australia.'

To achieve this mission we:

- foster, promote, enhance and protect the interests of the Industry;
- represent industry policy at all levels of government, private enterprise and the public;
- promote, support, seek amendments to, or oppose any legislation or measure that may affect the industry; and
- conduct educational, promotional and public relations campaigns.

Our constitution is available online at: <https://honeybee.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Review-of-constitution-2014-15-V4-full-version.pdf>





State Association Reports

NSW

Another year has passed and once again I have to report on yet another extremely difficult season. The cumulative effects of several years of below average rainfall have resulted in many failed agricultural crops this past spring which created a dearth of colony build conditions in many areas although some isolated pockets allowed reasonable resources but most of these were short lived. Some production was gained from Yellow Box and Coastal Ironbarks but overall this season's yields have been below average. Bushfires and extended periods of high temperatures also contributed to colony stress and in northern NSW hives and resource lost in fires culminated in very little autumn production. The challenge for beekeepers now is to maintain hives over winter in a reasonable condition to take advantage of next spring.

The gaining of a 12 month fee waiver for public lands sites, along with the two years of free heavy vehicle registrations will hopefully

alleviate some financial stress for all beekeepers in these difficult times.

Resource security continues to be the priority issue, the support desk is up and running but some agencies seem intent on delaying progress. The incoming executive will need to maintain dialogue with the relevant ministers to maintain our profile and push for increased access to our public resource. Unless we can secure increased access to a reliable natural resource maintaining colonies to service our states pollination requirements will be extremely difficult to achieve.

This past year members were represented by your association at ministerial meetings and submissions to Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs), Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (IFOAs) and the Private Native Forestry Review (PNF) try to secure access to our public and private native forest resource.

Government seem to be receptive to our concerns but are unwilling to commit to reducing overall timber supply to the detriment of

our native forest resource. There has been some recent movement from this stand with the Federal Agriculture Minister stating that there needs to be a shift in current practices to accommodate apiary requirements in forests to maintain food security.

The future of Honeyland was in doubt earlier in the year, so your executive created a sub committee to oversee operations and I must say that the committee have exceeded my expectations and at time of writing this report seems to be on track to have a successful 2019 Show.

Thank you to secretary Ros and 2 Rivers Pty Ltd for your administrative support during the past year and perseverance with our website which has not progressed as smoothly as I had hoped, but we will get there soon.

Your executive has worked tirelessly toward achieving our goals and I wish to convey my appreciation for their support during the year. My sincere thanks must go to retiring councillor and past President Casey cooper for his unwavering contributions to your association

through his involvement in the following committees: Honeyland, Bee Industry Biosecurity Consultative Committee (BIBCC) and the State Advisory Group (SAG).

Thank you to all members for supporting your association, without you our voice with Government would be severely diminished.

Neil Bingley

Victoria

The past year has been an exciting and demanding one for myself and the Executive Committee. Much time has been taken up with administrative matters and much has been achieved. In particular, the VAA Subcommittees have embraced their expanded role within the Association with some impressive results. The subcommittees have achieved several key goals and made considerable progress towards others. These committees provide essential support to the Executive in advancing our overarching goals, as well as contributing to our shared vision



to make the VAA stronger, more productive and more visible.

As a group, we need to think constantly about improving what we do and how we do it, and many of these initiatives are implemented by the subcommittees...

Industry Wrap-up for the Year

Generally speaking, beekeepers have had a reasonable year. The end of the season brought good flowering from grey box and for many that will mean a strong start for next season. The consensus seems to be that the coming season could be a 'cracker' – and with lots of budding being seen, we should all start building those frames and boxes!

World Bee Day

World Bee Day <https://www.un.org/en/events/bee-day/> was 20 May 2019, which was celebrated in Canberra at Government House. The event included speeches from Jodie Goldsworthy (representing Apimondia) and Peter McDonald (Chair of AHVIC). Around 100 beekeepers and delegates from around Australia attended the event.

World Bee Day was proposed by the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association, aiming to raise awareness globally about the importance of bees to humanity. Following three years of effort at the international level, the UN Member States unanimously approved the proposal, proclaiming May 20 as World Bee Day on 20 December 2017. May 20 was chosen as it coincides with the birthday of Anton Janša, an 18th century pioneer of modern beekeeping in Slovenia.

VAA Subcommittees

The VAA subcommittees have played a more prominent role in the Association this year, resulting in a number of achievements. The subcommittees are working on a variety of projects related to individual expertise and areas of interest. I hope over the next year we will see more ideas from the subcommittees becoming actioned and I look forward to the results.

Notable wins this year include:

- Improvements to the Bee Journal (such as full colour printing) and more content support for the Editor

- Generating interest from major educational institutions about offering Certificate 3 in Beekeeping and traineeships, to facilitate career paths into our industry
 - Creating a customized, industry insurance package available to all affiliated Clubs and VAA members
 - Establishing strategic alliances outside our industry such as an alliance between the VAA, Rotary and the When Bee Foundation, to advance the interests of all things ‘bee-related’
 - Continued progress toward the goal of granting bees uninterrupted/ unrestricted access to forests for year-round foraging (with the help of Owen Bassett)
 - Establishing a formal, strategic planning process for the VAA with the guidance of Ian Hunt, who is an expert in this area
 - Ongoing contributions from the VAA to the Apicultural Industry Advisory Committee
- Appointment of Ian Cane to the Regional Forest Agreement Reference Group
 - Successful grant applications to AIAC
 1. Funding for industry key note speakers at 2019 Annual Conference
 2. Two places in the Marcus Oldham Leadership course
 3. Owen Bassett – Forest Solutions, Equitable Co-existence, Apiculture and Timber Production Project.
 4. Owen Bassett – Forest Solutions, Assisting Restoration of degraded Box Ironbark Forests

The current group of subcommittees include specialist committees for the following areas:

- Resources
- Education
- Clubs and Affiliations
- Marketing and Communications
- Strategic Planning
- The Royal Melbourne Show
- Conference



- Membership
- Australian Bee Journal
- Legal
- Insurance

Royal Melbourne Show

The 2018 Royal Melbourne Show resulted in record sales for the VAA and a boost to our financial position. The Show is our major fundraising activity and without it, it would be very difficult to keep going. The amazing volunteers who help organise and run this event cannot be thanked enough.

The VAA Constitution

Legal and administrative matters have been a significant drain on the Association's resources in the past year. However, these matters have also resulted in an important opportunity for the VAA to better prepare for the future by updating our Constitution.

The VAA constitutional changes that were voted on last AGM and submitted to Consumer Affairs were rejected due to the current constitution not meeting the legal requirement and therefore those changes were not accepted. The VAA Constitution will now undergo

an independent legal review to ensure that it meets current legislative requirements and that the Rules of Branches and Sections are consistent with it. The Law Institute of Victoria has referred us to an expert constitutional lawyer who has agreed to undertake this review on a pro bono basis.

A draft Constitution will be presented to members for consideration as soon as practicable. The recently proposed changes to the Melbourne Section will be postponed until this process is finalised.

What does the future hold?

The future holds both opportunity and threat. The recognition of the importance of bees has made bee products more valuable. As the world moves to support beekeepers, opportunities arise for the Australian beekeeping industry. A chance to show the world what amazing products we produce from our plants and bees. There is a growing need for more hives for pollination. Our biggest threat is still Varroa and an ageing population within the industry.

Looking ahead, a primary goal for the Executive Committee is contributing to a more united front for the beekeeping industry across Victoria and Australia.

Be part of your industry, look for opportunities to contribute as much or as little as you can.

Key plans/ visions for the Executive Committee for the next 12 months include:

- An updated Constitution to support robust and ongoing growth into the future.
- Continued work on the strategic plan for the VAA.
- Improving VAA's profile in the beekeeping and general community – we need to build a stronger community that recognises the VAA as the peak industry body in Victoria.
- To continue to work closely with state and federal groups with influence in our industry to ensure the best possible outcomes for beekeepers (both commercial and recreational).
- To encourage using local manufacturers and suppliers of beekeeping products for beekeeping consumables.
- Forming relationships with institutions and scientists tackling the current and future threats facing beekeeping in Australia.
- Improving the frequency of communication between the VAA and our Clubs and Affiliates.
- Encouraging the department to help in the contacting of recreational beekeeper to direct them to take up biosecurity and beekeeping education.
- Working more closely with AHBIC and other State and Territory bodies to strengthen our voice to government.
- Succession planning.
- Working with industry and Educational providers to pave a clear path for entry to commercial beekeeping. Offering a more consistent quality of education through the recreational path way.
- With so much going on, it may be that the VAA should look at how it could fund an additional full-time or part-time position



to help achieve the results we need!

Enjoy the conference! I'll enjoy having a chat with you over a tea or coffee and hearing any thoughts and suggestion that you may have.

Thank you all for your ongoing support...

Aris Petratos

For the love of bees

Queensland

The Management Committee would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new members to the Queensland Beekeepers' Association over the past 12 months. We would also like to thank our members who continue to contribute to the association and support the industry. The past year has been a busy and productive year for the QBA. Below is a summary of the activities of the management committee over the past 12 months.

Access to National Parks post 2024

Our then new QBA State Secretary Jo Martin hit the ground running, keen to secure meetings with key

Government Ministers and Senior Policy Advisors to re-establish some relationships with their offices. Our first opportunity to liaise with the members of Parliament came when we were again invited to attend the Bundaberg Regional Produce Evening. The evening is co-ordinated by MP Steven Bennett, Member for Burnett and was held at Queensland Parliament on the 14th of June 2018. QBA was represented by Vice-President Clinton Ruge, State Secretary Jo Martin and QBA Member Daniel Jones. The evening was a great success for the QBA, it provided us with a perfect opportunity to promote the industry and provide some awareness around the impending access issues to National Parks post 2024. We received some great support and feedback from both the Government and the Opposition. The team collected a large number of contacts on the night who were keen to discuss the issue with the QBA in more detail. The evening also provided us with our first introduction to the new Minister for Environment, Hon Leanne Enoch. Our State Secretary Jo then quickly went to work contacting relevant Ministers

and Members of the opposition to schedule meetings with the QBA.

On 29 August 2018 QBA President Rob Dewar, Vice-President Clinton Ruge, Wide Bay Representative Peter Barnes and State Secretary Jo Martin met with Deb Freckington, Leader of the Opposition, Tony Perrett, Shadow Minister for Agriculture & Fisheries and David Crisafulli, Shadow Environment Minister. The QBA's main objective was to reconnect a relationship with the opposition and to obtain support from the LNP for continued access to National Parks.

On the 24th of September the QBA was invited to attend the Queensland Governments Community Cabinet evening in Toowoomba. The event provided another chance for the QBA to network with Members of the Cabinet and have a brief conversation with the Premier. The following day QBA President Rob Dewar along with Vice-President Clinton Ruge and Secretary Jo Martin met with Hon Mark Furner, Minister for Agriculture and Hon Leanne Enoch, Minister for Environment and their relative policy advisors. QBA was surprised

to see the Director General for Agriculture in attendance and also the Director for Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. The outcome of the meeting was a commitment made by the Department of Environment to complete an independent review into the impacts of honey bees on native forests as well as an offer by the Director General of Agriculture to complete a specific valuation of the honeybee industry in Queensland. Both QBA President Rob Dewar, Jo Martin have worked tirelessly to ensure this review is completed within the designated time frame. We would also like to acknowledge the contribution from past QBA President Rex Carruthers, his wisdom, experience and knowledge has been of great value during this busy time.

In late January 2019 the QBA received a letter from the then Acting Director General of Parks, Sally Egan outlining the scope of work and terms of reference for the independent review commissioned by the Department. QBA requested a meeting with Sally Egan to review the terms of the review, the meeting took place on the 8th of March. QBA President, Rob Dewar,



Vice-President Clinton Ruge, QBA member Rex Carruthers and State Secretary Jo Martin attended the meeting, QBA raised a number of concerns about the review which were taken into consideration. The meeting also allowed us to clearly detail the list of expectations on both the QBA and QPWS while the review was taking place. The Management team continue to navigate the journey to continued National Parks access post 2024. We anticipate the completion of the literature review during the month of May 2019 and look forward to updating our members on the outcome of the review.

Bee Biosecurity Officer

The creation of a Bee Biosecurity Officer in Queensland has been years in the making. We are delighted to report that Biosecurity Qld (BQ), Plant Health Australia (PHA) and the QBA are now in the final stages of rolling out this position. Over the past 12 months we have had a number of meetings with BQ and PHA to review the work plan and job description for the role. We expect to see the role advertised in the coming weeks. QBA will have a place on the

selection panel, and we have asked Trevor Weatherhead to represent the QBA for this duration of this process. Trevor brings a wealth of knowledge, and expertise to this role from his former role as AHBIC CEO. Interested candidates are asked to visit the Smart jobs website at www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au for more information about the role. QBA will also provide a link to the advertisement via an email when it is officially advertised.

State Secretary

In late September 2018, the management committee reviewed the hours of work for our State Secretary Jo Martin. The decision was made to increase her paid hours to 25 hours per week, allowing Jo to be paid for her hours worked 9.30am to 2.30pm Monday to Friday. As we are all aware our State Secretaries both past and present have contributed a large number of hours as unpaid work for the association, hours that our members never see but benefit greatly from. Jo accepted the management committee's proposal and continues to work tirelessly for the association and industry.

2019 has seen a number of significant changes to the way we run the QBA. In early 2019 QBA moved to an 'online membership site' a site where members can access their membership records, pay membership fees and register for our annual conference. The website also provides members with access to the 'members only area'. This is where information from the QBA as well as other industry body's is shared by the QBA. Jo is working to expand this area and has great things planned in the coming months. The design and creation of the website and members area was many months in the making and the QBA is now reaping the rewards of this wonderful additional to our association.

Ekka 2018

Ekka 2018 was again a wonderful event for the association. In the words of Adrian Jones "one of the most successful events I have run yet". The success of the QBA's involvement and participation at the RNA can only be measured by the efforts of those who raise their hand to volunteer, particularly the small number of extremely

dedicated members who effectively put their lives and businesses on hold to run this for the QBA. The management committee would like to extend our sincere thanks to all involved in making Ekka 2018 the success it was. A very special thanks to Adrian Jones for his work as Ekka Manager.

Education

Over the past 12 months QBA has been involved with a number of educational events for both children and community groups. A special thank you to Marion Weatherhead for arranging speakers and resources for the specific events. Marion puts a great deal of effort into every event, ensuring that she caters the presentation to the group she is speaking too. From all reports QBA's presence is always appreciated and often highly regarded. Education is a key component to the survival and sustainability of our industry; it is our connection to our future. We would also like to acknowledge the members who also give up their own time to present in the sessions.

The Management Committee of the Queensland Beekeepers' Association would like to thank



each and everyone of our members who continue to support us in our roles.

South Australia

For the year in review, I will touch on adulterated honey, Field days, Industry liaison training, access to resources and the tough season.

Adulterated honey was serious topic for our industry to contend with particularly the way it was thrashed into the media. This was a serious frustration because our sector had only just begun to deal with alleged concerns. This caught most off guard and left very few people whom could comment accurately on the situation. This led to raft of thing being discussed in the media like supplement feeding and the NMR testing procedure as a fix. This was the official statement,

“AHBIC was disappointed the way the results of both the recent reports have been reported. Issues around the validity of the NMR testing used and concerns around the adequacy of the database which may underrepresented Australian honey’s were raised. Equally, concerns with the interpretation

of C4 sugar testing results in the Macquarie University study was discussed. The co-author of the second report joined the group via skype to discuss the concerns raised. The co-author was pushed to release more details of the samples allowing AHBIC to properly investigate the claims but this was denied. Importantly significant limitations with the C4 testing was discussed and it was recognised that the 18% failure rate may not be contributed solely to sugar feeding but could be related to a number of issues like pollen supplement feeding, mixed floral sourced honey’s and chemical reactions in active honey that is recognised to skew the C4 test results.”

Ultimately it was a serious jump of the gun, NMR may one day be a significant tool in the fight against honey adulteration. However as the test relies on a data base many of the honey’s that you and I produce would currently fail this test. For one they are not in the data base and sometimes they are so pure and unique (monofloral) to a location that it could take 10 years to feed in enough information to make it accurate.

This year we have held two field days with a third in planning. These have been in conjunction with the central branch and PIRSA with a huge thank you for those who volunteered to help and present. The first was mainly aimed at preparing bees for winter and pollination. There was a little bit for everyone, some theory, science and practical interactions accompanied with a beautiful meal. Secondly we held an information and practical day for almond growers in the Riverland. We discussed the hive registration numbers and the growth in our sector and the current seasonal conditions. We also had a practical display of different hive strengths, splitting options and hives that are not suitable under the code. Thanks to all who contributed to make it a success, the central branch has set the bar high with their efforts; thank you Les, Katrina, Anthony.

In September, three of our members attended the Apiary Industry Liaison Officer (ILO) training. This was a joint training program held in the Melbourne state bio-security operations centre with 17 representatives from our sector, Plant Health Australia

and Agriculture Victoria. The aim of the exercise was to enhance our industries preparedness to have beekeepers work effectively with government in the event we have an exotic incursion. We now have a number of individuals in each state that are nationally accredited as ILO's. This was a fantastic initiative by Daniel Martin from Ag VIC and Peter McDonald AHBIC chair, who have acted on a significant weakness in our Varroa preparedness. We were fortunate to base our training on the real life scenario of the June interception of Varroa in the Pt of Melbourne. This gave our industry representatives real exposure to the expectations of what is a very important role in managing our practical interests in a complex government environment. This has highlighted some immediate shortfalls as a national industry and as an individual state that we can work on now.

The executive addressed the Murray Mallee bushfire consultative committee; we were given the opportunity to present our associations interests in natural resources and the fire management of these areas. We have also



continued our efforts to work with Department of Environment and Water (DEW) to have our concerns imbedded at a policy planning level. At the moment we have the opportunity to work with individuals at an operations level which is great but a short term solution. Currently we are in the process of applying for a joint funded project..... Thank you to Andrew Sheath from DEW for his considering our concerns, his time and ongoing communication to our members. We have also worked with the Minister for Agriculture's office on a number of matters but particularly access to resources.

On top of that it was a challenging production season for all across the state this year. Lack of nutrition both nectar and pollen hampered bee health and this in combination, with some extreme heat, made for what many say is our worst year on record. It was challenging for our executive as well as we fielded many calls of distress from people with heat affected hives, nutrition problems and also financial concerns. There are plenty of businesses that applied for concession loans under the federal government drought assistance

package. We truly wish everyone the very best and hopefully soon it will be a distant memory.

Lastly, thank you to the executive for their time and effort. We are a diverse group who does not always agree however we were once again able to find the middle ground with a compromised consensus. Sometimes quickly and sometime not! To our members, please continue to reach out with ideas, concerns and direction. Thank you to our branches, it has been great to receive detailed feedback for direction of the association.

Western Australia

This year has been one of the most difficult for honey production in Western Australia. With beekeepers producing a small amount of honey during the summer months, this year's honey production will end up being below average. Fortunately, some beekeepers managed to get additional income from paid pollination.

WAFarmers Beekeepers Section have had a busy year dealing with many issues; the main ones are listed below.

Prescribed Burning

We made a submission to the Draft Fire Management Strategy.

Some key points in our submission were:

- More consultation with beekeepers at the planning stages, and a beekeeper representative in each of the regional areas.
- The years between prescribed burns, in some areas, be extended. Realising that areas around assets may have to be burnt more frequently.
- The timing of some of the burns be changed to create cooler burns.
- Some areas may be postponed if trees are budded and going to flower around the prescribed burn time.
- Roads and tracks be maintained so they can be used as breaks for prescribed burns. This way burn areas may be reduced instead of the large block burning currently being undertaken.

A media release was sent out on 6 May 2019, raising our concerns. This resulted in a large media

response through radio, television and social media.

We have since met with representatives from the Minister's office, both Agriculture and Environment, DBCA, DPIRD, and BICWA. As a result of this meeting DBCA are now asking for beekeeper representatives to be nominated to represent the regions, to have input at the planning stages of future prescribed burns and comment on their 3-year plan.

WA Local Government Associations

As some beekeepers would be aware, DBCA are not renewing apiary sites on land that is vested with local shire Councils. WAFarmers Beekeepers Section organised a meeting with WALGA inviting delegates from BICWA and DBCA to be present to try and resolve the problem. From this meeting DBCA have been working with the Dandaragan Shire to trial a process that may form some policy to be used across all local shire Councils. A copy of this will be sent to members soon.

We attended a meeting at the Shire of Dardanup to develop a policy



Picture by Dr Kate Hammer

that can be used by their Council to approve bee hives to be kept in residential and rural areas. It is mainly for the hobby beekeepers, but it also affects commercial beekeepers using smaller rural properties. Hopefully when it is finished it may be used by all shire Councils across WA.

Meetings with Government

Hon. Diane Evers MLC (South West), Greens: WAFarmers and BICWA delegates met to discuss prescribed burning and continued access to

apiary sites. We also discussed the effect that some of the timber harvesting is having on honey production. They want to work with beekeepers on issues that will affect our industry.

Hon. Colin de Grussa MLC (Agricultural Region), The Nationals WA: We organised a meeting with The Nationals about the prescribed burning issue. They gave us advice on how to progress our concerns and another meeting is organised for mid-June this year.

They all understand the importance of our industry and can see the potential for future growth in honey production and the increased demand for pollination.

Loaning of Apiary Site

WAFarmers are looking at ways to grow our membership as we represent a large majority of the commercial beekeepers in Western Australia. We felt that to help grow the industry, the offer of unused apiary sites will benefit new beekeepers and utilise the resource.

Over the past year, if beekeepers have sites they are not using, they send the site numbers, location and permit holder's details to the WAFarmers office. These are emailed out to members when received. This has worked well with other WAFarmers members offering their farms to beekeeper members to place hives on.

If you borrow a site and produce one super of honey, WAFarmers membership is a very small price to pay for the access to spare sites.

WAFarmers Beekeepers Section continue to have representatives on BICWA, APC and AHBIC.

I have enjoyed my year as President after a few years away from it all.

I would like to thank the members of the Executive for their input on issues during the year. Also, to Shannen and now Kate our Executive Officers for the work they do, making my job a little easier.

We need to increase our membership so we can do more to represent the commercial beekeepers on major issues affecting our industry.

I have spoken to some beekeeper members, and there will be some winter sites available to members in the next few weeks.

Stephen Fewster
WAFarmers Beekeepers Section
President

Tasmania

Well done AHBIC, I am proud of you, the new team of Chairman Peter McDonald and CEO Sarah Paradise are working well together.

I am particularly pleased AHBIC have implemented the major changes of listing the good hard working and honest beekeepers



who donate to their one and only peak industry body, AHBIC.

I am saddened and amazed by the names that should be there, and some will have major losses if AHBIC is not sufficiently funded to fight the good fight on our behalf.

What a poor season, a crisis. We had a crisis meeting to try and get our heads around the complete reality of a leatherwood season we did not have. Leatherwood accounts for 70+% of Tasmanian beekeeper's annual honey flow. 90 to 100% of leatherwood trees either did not flower this year or the small amount of those that did, withered within a day or so and did not secrete nectar.

The agriculture minister Hon Guy Barnett and the Tasmanian Government are helping the beekeepers in many ways including

- giving our beekeepers free access to sites for one year,
- helping us pay for the CRC into research of Leatherwood
- Helping beekeepers purchase extra food to feed their bees (certain criteria will apply)

- Providing a Project Officer to help beekeepers continue to gain access to sites and to identify more sites so beekeepers can expand their numbers to keep pace with the pollination expansion that is factored to grow.

The Old Forestry War is Over

The old forestry war is over, we beekeepers and Sustainable Timber Tasmania now have the planning guidelines for apiary values that is more than acceptable for both the beekeepers and Sustainable Timbers Tasmania.

With this document I look forward to participating in the two-day workshop that concerns all Australian beekeepers how to gain and how to retain access to Australia's forests including World Heritage areas.

Lindsay Bourke
President
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association



Image taken by University of Sydney



Other reports

Resources

AHBC PUBLIC LAND POLICY.

As part of a conversation with Chairman Peter McDonald, we agreed it is an appropriate time to review AHBC's Public Land Policy. This policy would give a clear intent of the Apiculture Industry's Peak Body position. The very basis of this policy could recognize the role Honeybees play in assuring the Food Security of our Nation and beyond. And also, our Industry's dependence on the Nation's Public Land systems.

A number of objectives as far as Access and Resource Security on all Public Licensed Bee Sites could be reviewed for everyone to consider. The upcoming workshop may consider this topic for discussion (time permitting).

TIMBER HARVESTING ON LICENSED BEE SITES.

Most of our States still have issues around excessive Timber Harvesting, many of our States have put considerable effort into this area over the decades. The growth in demand for Honeybees to pollinate a vast array of food crops hasn't translated into Resource Security (food) for our bees, in fact the opposite is still

happening in many areas, the L.E.M.S.F on the South Coast of NSW are a good example, many of these forests have a diminished value or no value and will have a profound impact on our Industry's ability to produce and deliver healthy bees for decades. The impact of fuel reduction burning is also an important issue for most States, many believe a high percentage of these burns are far too hot, creating long term damage to the environment.

PUBLIC LAND RESOURCE SECURITY MODELS/FUTURE AHBC TOUR/MEETING.

The VAA in conjunction with Government agencies have conducted a number of Timber Harvesting Trials on Licensed Bee Sites. Sustainable Timber Harvesting Prescriptions have been developed that support equitable co-existence for both the Timber Industry and the Apiculture Industry that rely on the same Low Elevation Mixed Specie Forests. I believe it would be very advantageous for the AHBC Executive to visit these trial sites, develop an understanding of the key objectives of these trials and see a forest harvested to the VAA prescriptions.

HELP!! RESOURCE SECURITY

To all the Honeybee dependent Industries, Personnel, etc., our Industry requires your assistance now! Resource Access and particularly Resource Security is the biggest “Risk” this Industry faces and it is also one of the biggest “Risks” your Industry faces.

More than a decade ago, one of the important recommendations of the “More than Honey Report” was to develop Resource Security for our Industry!

Our Industry’s Resources are totally insufficient to what is required to implement the programs that can deliver outcomes that will match the demand for Honeybees as pollinators.

Please assist in any way possible!

Ian Cane

HEALTHY FOREST = HEALTHY BEES =
HEALTHY PEOPLE!

NSW Resource Report 2019

Resource security has progressed to a point where public lands bee site allocation is no longer threatened by auctions or tendering. There is a fixed price per site and sites are renewable on five year permits payable annually. Recently vacated sites are allocated via an expression of interest (EOI) process. Sites

are transferable between family members and on sale of business.

There remains the issue of no new sites in National Parks which severely restricts access to a large floral resource. A resolution to this issue remains a top priority for NSWAA.

A review into Private Native Forestry regulations is underway and NSWAA has submitted its concerns and recommendation to that committee.

Forestry sites may have been secured but the available resource available on each site has been severely diminished by excessive timber harvesting operations. A forest of saplings is of little value to apiarists.

This last decade of low rainfall has severely stressed many species of eucalypts across wide areas of NSW and many have succumbed to the lack of moisture and adding to this loss of resource there is little if any regrowth occurring due to farming practices.



Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association

The management committee of the AQBBA consisted of Chris Kassebaum as President, Laurie Dewar as Vice President, Jody Gerdts as Secretary, David Briggs as Treasurer, and Corinne Jordan serving as a non-office bearing member.

The original incarnation of the AQBBA was formed in the mid 1990's to protect the interests of the honey bee industry in the areas of biosecurity and trade access. The organisation was active through mid 2000's but activity waned in the last decade as many of the issues undertaken but the AQBBA were attended to by AHBIC. In recent years the need for a peak body to represent the interests and concerns specific to honey bee breeders and queen producers was evident. Consequently, the AQBBA was re-formed and incorporated in 2018. The AQBBA currently has around 20 members, with interest and support growing rapidly in the industry.

The in 2018-2019 AQBBA management committee focused



work on two main projects: Updating shipping and packaging protocol within Australia Post and laying the foundation create biosecure pathways for the importation of honey bee germplasm into Australia.

Australia Post

Inconsistencies between the Australia Post Dangerous Goods and Packaging Guidelines (DGPG), state biosecurity requirements, and accepted shipping practices were identified in late 2018. AQBBA has been in conversation with Gary Mcleish, the Dangerous Goods Manager, to resolve inconsistencies and update the DGPG to reflect current state biosecurity legislation, best practice packaging guidelines, and internal

handling practices. Provisions are being included to handle queen bees and package bees through Australia Post. The outcomes of this activity will be improved queen and bee survivorship when transported through Australia Post. In the coming year the AQBBA will develop best practice packaging guidelines and associated educational materials for industry beekeepers sending queens and bees through Australia Post.

Biosecure importation of honey bee germplasm

The AQBBA recognizes industry's desire for pathways to import new germplasm (queens and drones semen) into Australia and has been addressing two main impediments to importation: the capacity for successful queen/ nuc care in Post Entry Quarantine (PEQ) and the ability to import germplasm free of exotic viruses. The AQBBA has been working with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) to create a protocol framework that will result in successful queen importation. The framework includes allowing the importing beekeeper or nominated representative access

to care for nucs containing the imported queens in PEQ and a commitment from DAWR to upskill staff involved in bee importations with the assistance of the Agriculture Victoria apiary team. A domestic trial will be undertaken in September or October 2019 to test the importation protocol and prepare for an overseas importation.

To address the desire to import stock without importing exotic viruses, the AQBBA is supporting a project led by CISRO to trail the addition of virus screening in live queen imports in PEQ bringing the queen import requirements in parallel with requirements for importation of drone semen. The project will also assess the robustness of the current drone semen protocol in preventing the importation of exotic viruses. This project involves importing queens and semen into Australia and any stock free of virus will be released to industry though the AQBBA after an 8-12 month assessment period.



Apimondia

*Jodie Goldsworthy - Apimondia
Oceania Region President*

For the Apimondia Executive Committee the unexpected loss of the Apimondia President Mr Philip McCabe on 20 October 2018 has served as motivation to carry through on Philip's belief for Apimondia. Apimondia promotes sustainable beekeeping, science and beekeeping knowledge for beekeepers and the public. It connects, advocates and educates across the globe to promote the well being of bees, beekeepers and sustainable beekeeping practices through the promotion and organisation of events, forums and publications worldwide.



As one of Philip's closest friends who was with him as he passed has said *"we have lost a truly great friend and the beekeeping world has lost a giant."* Vice President Mr Peter Kosmus from Slovenia stepped in to the Acting Presidents role at the time of Philips passing.

The Apimondia Executive Committee made up of five Regional Presidents, seven Scientific Presidents and President, Vice President and Secretary General have had a busy and proactive past year. The main work of Apimondia is to provide the global glue that connects all of the beekeeping associations around the world and to facilitate the organisation of the Apimondia Congresses.

At the time of Philips passing an active working group to which I was a participant was reviewing and rewriting the criteria for the World Beekeeping Awards following the problems with the awards in Turkey in 2017. Apimondia has a huge opportunity to showcase high quality honey

through the World Beekeeping Awards and also to send strong signals to the beekeepers, traders, retailers and consumers of honey in relation to the need to be vigilant against honey fraud. The new criteria for the World Beekeeping Awards uses a more rigorous approach to pretesting and traceability of honey and the inclusion of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) testing which is considered an important tool in the toolkit of things that help to prevent and detect honey fraud. The World Beekeeping Awards criteria has been reviewed and updated to ensure it is reviewed before each congress to ensure that new testing methods developed to detect honey fraud considered the best available method at that time are included into the future. As a result of this for the honey competition this means that all honey entries must be sent prior to Apimondia so that judging can take place. Applicants are required to register and pay for 2019 Apimondia in advance or at the same time as entering for the WBA classes. All entry fees have to be paid by online credit card in Canadian Dollars and are non-refundable no matter the circumstances. All honey classes that require to be sent for laboratory analysis must be received by July 20, 2019. The application deadline for all other contests is August 31, 2019. <https://www.apimondia2019.com/awards/>

I will be travelling to Montreal to take part as a judge in the World Beekeeping Awards with honey judging taking place prior to the opening of the Congress on the 8th September.

The Apimondia 2019 Program for Montreal Canada looks amazing with Apimondia taking place between 8 and 12 September. The biggest job has been for the Scientific Presidents to select the best presentations from the more than 700 abstracts received. The program will be jam packed with the world's best speakers on bee biology, pollination, bee health, beekeeping technology, quality and economy, apitherapy and beekeeping for rural development. Having visited Montreal in May this year to help finalise the program and ensure everything was in order for the event I can only encourage all beekeepers from Australia to try to visit Apimondia in Montreal. The similarities between large scale Canadian beekeeping



and Australian beekeeping will provide additional benefits for Australian beekeepers attending the congress. <https://www.apimondia2019.com/>

The other area of activity for Apimondia has been in the area of Honey adulteration. Apimondia partnered with Interpol with the Apimondia President making presentations to Interpol meetings in France in late 2018. This connection continues and in January 2019 the Apimondia Working Group against Honey Adulteration published a statement on the topic. The statement has received much interest globally. Apimondia is also working as a participant on the new ISO Bee Products Standard which includes the global development of ISO standards for honey, royal jelly, beeswax, propolis, pollen, bee bread and bee larvae. This standard is being developed at a global level with France having the lead on this project. It is expected that the development of these standards will take some time. In addition the US Pharmacopeia is currently developing new standards for honey which will include details on honey testing methods. This work is informed also by Apimondia through a member of the Honey Adulteration Working Group.

World Bee Day has been another area of continued work for Apimondia with this years global World Bee Day celebration taking place at FAO in Rome on May 20th. This builds on the celebration that took place in Slovenia in 2018. Apimondia has formed a World Bee Day Working group to put in place the framework around World Bee Day to ensure that its aims and objectives are progressed within a framework that protects the integrity of World Bee Day. We are currently drafting a protocol and the events and collaborative efforts to celebrate World Bee Day in Australia will be used as a model to guide the development of this framework. Don't forget that the Inaugural Declaration made on World Bee Day in 2018 available at the link below is still a useful lobbying tool for beekeepers and Associations trying to highlight the importance of bees.

http://www.mkgp.gov.si/fileadmin/mkgp.gov.si/pageuploads/Medijsko_sredisce/2018/05_Maj/19_ministrska_konferenca/Declaration_WORLD_BEE_DAY.pdf

The last area of work that the Apimondia Executive are part way through is that of progression of a Strategic Plan for Apimondia. The Executive progressed this a further step at its last meeting in May. I have been asked by the Executive to stay on and assist to see this a reality in the not too distant future. It is a privilege to be able to assist with helping Apimondia take steps to realise its full potential.

Thanks to Maureen Conquer as Oceania Region Vice President for all her support and work with me during the past year.

HPMAA

The past year has been a period of change and focus for the honey packing sector. Consumer and customer expectations continue to grow and the world around us presents new challenges and opportunities.

Many beekeepers and sectors of the honey packing sector have been fearful that the media surrounding the adulterated honey stories of last year would have a negative impact on the demand for honey overall. Incidentally, anybody complacent about the national and global threats from adulterated, or fake, honey, especially from China, could well benefit from a careful reading of Mary Montaut's article published in the January edition of the ABK.



Retail sales reports show that the market has declined only 3% but market sources are quick to point out that there are many things that can impact sales with media being only one of the things likely to have contributed to the small decline. In the prior year the honey category was subjected to deep retailer discounts (up to 50% off) which has the effect of driving sales volume (as opposed to value) but these discounting activities can then



cause a decline in sales for the same period following where this activity does not take place.

There have also been a number of changes across the spreads category overall. Bega purchased Vegemite and Kraft Peanut Butter and have invested heavily in Australian made and owned campaigns which have driven sales in these categories. Whilst honey has many unique characteristics it ultimately competes with other spreads so growth in these categories, including chocolate spreads can have an influence on market growth or decline.

By comparison, confidential German market sources report that the honey category in Germany has fallen by 8%. This is being attributed to a warmer than usual winter period and less people consuming honey due to the effects of the warmer weather. Their market has not experienced any significant media surrounding honey as was the case in Australia.

It's also interesting to cast your mind back to the period post 2004 where as a result of honey shortages we saw the retail shelf price in Australia double for honey. This caused a 19% decrease to the volume of the retail honey sales in Australia at that time compared to the year before.

The media has driven the public to review their purchase decisions and this has driven opportunities for beekeeper owned brands. Supermarkets now report that consumers rank the importance of 100% Australian honey higher than price. To have price rank below 100% Australian origin demonstrates the value that consumers place in the quality of Australian honey and gives a strong position from which to improve market outcomes for beekeepers into the future.

To complete the market picture it's worth also taking a look at what's been happening with imports and exports over the last 12 months and beyond. Again the statistics are positive for Australian beekeepers.

Exports - The volume (kgs) of honey exported from Australia grew by 1.8% in 2018 to 3.9M kg. This has been relatively stable over the last 3 years.

The value of export (not shown on the graph) has grown by \$3,773,159 from 2017 to 2018 according to the DFAT report.

Imports - As seen in the above DFAT annual data the volume (kgs) of honey imported into Australia declined by 20% in the calendar year 2018 to 6.8M kg, a reduction of 1.7M kg. This reduction was primarily due to a 1.4M kg decrease in honey coming in from China vs 2017. Imports from China fell to 4.7M kg in 2018 down from 6.1M kg (-23%). China still represents 69% of all imported honey into Australia in kgs at a price per kg of \$2.41. The overall value of imports increased by 19% with the value of imports being driven almost exclusively by the value of New Zealand imports which attributed \$19M to this growth.

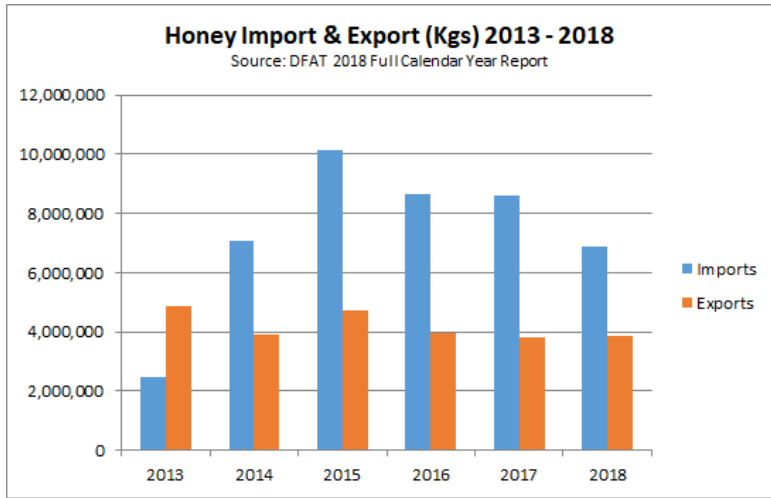
In the below graph with data sourced from the ABS Quarterly Import data we can see detail by quarter over the last 12 months showing the impact of major supermarket decisions to either completely remove imported honey or significantly reduce it from shelf and the media attention surrounding fake honey has had on the volume of imported honey coming into Australia. In the quarter directly following the media attention we saw imported honey fall by 58% on the corresponding quarter from 2017.

In the past year the HPMAA has contributed to (through AHBIC) trying to improve market access in middle eastern markets and China although progress is very slow with both these markets. The Australian Government issued an advice to state that for China there was no way of guaranteeing customs clearance of Australian honey and that a rejection at the port could cause a loss of ability for the company involved to export honey to China imposed by the Chinese Customs officials / Chinese government.

The Australian government is believed to have invested in NMR technology to assist with testing of honey in Australia. Global efforts continue on a range of solutions to disrupt adulteration with Apimondia Congress in Montreal focusing on this topic. Combined the need for traceability, testing and the monitoring of global movements of honey and cheap sugars used to mimic honey are aligning to make it more difficult for traders of low priced honey.



Some HPMAA members have attended meetings of the Australian Manuka Association which has been actively working on trying to defend the application by New Zealand to trademark the name Manuka. New

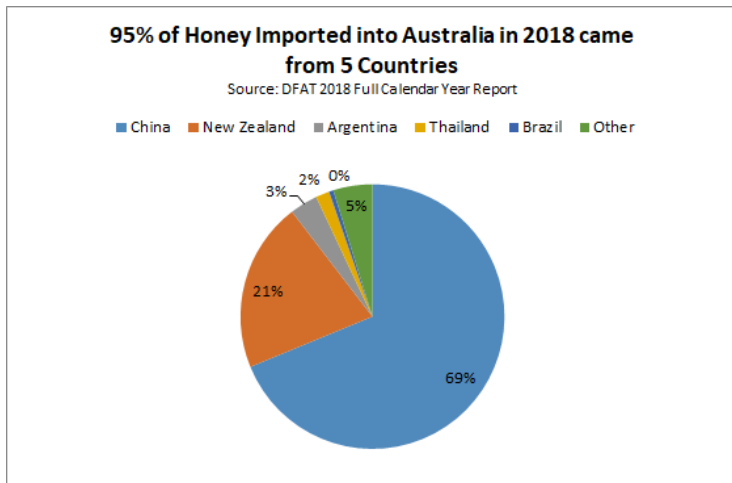
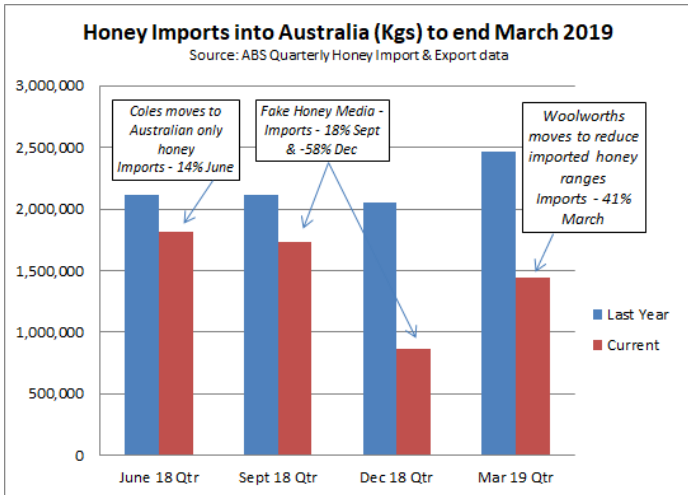


Zealands manuka honey standards have now come into effect and given the shared FSANZ Food Regulations it will be interesting to see if these regulations will also be used by Australia to sort out an appropriate definition for Manuka honey in Australia. Even if the regulators do not introduce these in the short term it is likely that retailers will use these as a guide for their purchases to sort out what is genuine manuka and what is not. It is likely that much of what Australian producers are calling Manuka is unlikely to meet these New Zealand standards.

HPMAA has this year through the AHBIC Food Safety Committee made solid progress towards producing a final draft of public relations statements. These have been prepared to manage publicity on some complex topics that relate to honey quality. The final drafts will be presented to HPMAA for member endorsement at the AGM.

This past year sees the honey packing sector complying to the new Country of Origin labelling laws. Issues to watch on the horizon are issues such as consumer interest in animal welfare and the growing focus on

sugar in the diet. Public interest in bee welfare and sustainability issues such as moving hives for almond pollination appears to be increasing and industry can expect to have a broader range of questions asked around the health and welfare of bees in the future.





The review of the Australian Government Health Star ratings, advertising to children and a sugar tax are all topics on the horizon that will involve honey and that industry needs to be prepared for. The recent election of the Morrison government is likely to mean that a more balanced regulatory approach to these topics is adopted compared to some of the positions previously outlined in relation to the introduction of more heavy handed legislation flagged by Labour on these topics during the election campaign.

Thank you to all members for your contributions throughout the year. Again a special thank you to Lloyd Smith for his co-ordination of HPMMA responses to the IHEO Report.

*Jodie Goldsworthy
President*

B-QUAL

B-QUAL now has a two-monthly newsletter available on the B-QUAL webpage <http://bqual.com.au/> or links through AHBIC, Capilano and other apiarists associations. A big thank you goes out to Don Muir for organising this which is full of very useful information.

In the past 12 months the board has been busy updating B-QUAL to reflect current biosecurity needs and best beekeeping practices. Updates will be sent to current members.

Auditors are now trained to the new B-QUAL/biosecurity requirements.

Member details are now on website. This is due to increased demand from buyers wanting to buy honey from producers with QA in place.

Increased awareness of general public demanding QA and packers are following insisting on a QA program to be put in place.

From the start of this year there have been 184 enquiries to B-QUAL with 48 queries since the release of the questionnaire from Hive and Wellness to their suppliers in relation to QA on 20 May.

Thank you to all our board members and everyone involved in the successful growth of B-QUAL.

Wayne Fuller
Chairman B-QUAL

Food Safety & Prevention of Residues

The Committee continues to work with government and other stakeholders to ensure the integrity of Australian honey and honey imports into Australia, whilst working to ensure that international markets remain open and easily accessed for premium Australian bee product exports.

As you would be aware, the New Zealander's are endeavouring to Trademark the name 'Manuka' for their exclusive use. Industry has now formed a new organisation whose primary purpose is to fight the progression of this Trademark in the best interests of the Australian honey bee industry. We would encourage beekeepers and packers to join the Australian Manuka Honey Association (AMHA). New Zealand's attempts to Trademark the Manuka name, has shone the light on the Manuka industry in Australia and the comparable, if not better, qualities of Australian active Manuka. Now there is an AMHA formed, the responsibility for Manuka scientific work, testing standards and gathering of evidence for pending legal battles has been passed on to this organisation.

China is a key trading partner for Australian agricultural exports including honey, and there remains confused and inconsistent enforcement of tests on honeys entering China with respect to bee disease status, in particularly AFB and EFB. This testing started in March 2018, when the Chinese government notified the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources that consignments of Australian honey have been



detected with American Foulbrood (AFB). Even though AFB and EFB is endemic in China as it is in Australia, consignments of packed Australian honey have been rejected because of positive AFB detections. Industry is hoping that such testing will continue to cease and become less prevalent, as it is neither scientifically valid nor consistent with agreed World Trade Organisation (WTO) principles.

The Committee has engaged the APVMA to represent beekeeper's interests, concerns and to propose changes to label directions and regulations associated with the use of glyphosate in Australia. We await their feedback and expect further consultation on this issue will occur this year.

In order to help address a lot of misinformation and a lack of scientific grounding that is easily broadcast about our industry on platforms such as social media, we have worked solidly to update key topics within the AHBIC Readiness plan. In association with and review by the HPMAA, this work has been completed and a range of documents have been provided to AHBIC.

Consignments of imported honey continue to be tested by the Federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resources for evidence of adulteration, the correct reducing sugar content and moisture content to verify compliance with the honey standard in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code. The Department has not officially released any more results of their imported honey surveillance program; however, industry has not been made aware of any failing test results. It is pleasing to see the Imported Inspection Scheme testing and enforcing compliance, with no failures.

The threat to the marketability of honey by those who seek publicly to discredit the product, beekeepers, the industry or a given packer quickly becomes a problem for the whole industry. Unfortunately, we faced adverse media publicity last spring at the beginning of September 2018, with respect to honey adulteration in imported and then Australian honey. Rubbishing commercial Australian beekeepers, threatening

their livelihood, or questioning the quality of the honey they produce without due cause goes beyond what is acceptable. The risks of product adulteration or the detection of foreign sugars because of beekeeping practices is a common threat to all industry players, as are any of the varied product quality compliance issues we face.

This Committee on behalf of AHBIC, endeavours to be abreast of scientific developments with respect to honey quality, international regulatory actions and analytical methods. Unfortunately, we were only made aware of the adulteration testing and allegations days before the stories went to air and were presented in the media. In some instances, we have not even been informed of the origin of samples alleged to be adulterated so we can appropriately investigate.

At the time, in association with AHBIC, we engaged with Australian regulatory bodies, the media and the then Federal Agriculture Minister (David Littleproud MP) to represent the best interests of industry and to attempt to explain the shortcomings of the range of tests been used to discredit honey. It soon became obvious, that having a public debate on the scientific failings of adulteration testing was futile. What we know from negative stories in the past, is that they erode consumer confidence in honey in general and impact the credibility of the honey industry as a whole, and a decrease in net sales of honey results.

Industry communicated to the media and government our concerns with the current proprietary testing regime of NMR. Our main points are that NMR results are open to interpretation, NMR results can also be inconsistent, and the suitability of using NMR on Australian processed or blended honeys was not proven. We also believe there is a lack of transparency around the authenticity of honeys in the database that underpins NMR testing for honey adulteration, there is an unknown designation of what quantifies adulteration and that honeys from our region are under-represented in the database. After careful consideration, the Australian Federal Department of Agriculture & Water Resources and



ACCC made similar conclusions. Unfortunately, these rationale findings got little publicity.

An industry, government and scientist workshop took place in Melbourne soon after the publicity on 22 November 2018, with the meeting recommendations being:

1. The native bee industry creates a definition for their honey as the honey profile differs from *Apis mellifera* (AHBIC has since pointed out that this research is presently being undertaken in Australia);
2. A metadata analysis of all the chemical and pollen analyses undertaken on Australian honey is collated to determine possible ranges for refining of the standard, and identify any possible anomalies that would need further investigation
3. A review of Australia's capacity to build/access a honey NMR database, and ability to determine honey adulteration using the Honey-Profiling™ 2.0 system is explored
4. Discussion on alternate methodologies to detect honey adulteration is encouraged
5. A protocol to collect an authentic compendium of Australian honeys, which is in line with internationally agreed processes, is developed and the collection undertaken and stored.

As reported at the NSW Apiarists' Association Conference in May 2019, AgriFutures™ has just funded a review of adulteration testing methods that was completed by Jamie Ayton, a Chemist with the NSW Department of Primary Industries. In summary, this review again exposed the intrinsic complications and false positive reality of current adulteration testing methods. This Committee will continue to work and engage with relevant stakeholders as we seek to create an independent, replicable and enforceable regime for adulteration testing that industry and regulators can affordably employ and rely on.

In doing so, we have also begun work on developing, harmonising and agreeing upon the analytical parameters of a new industry standard for honey in Australia. It is important that this standard, and accompanying certification mark that could be shown on conforming honey products, is credible and has specific analytical parameters and robust testing methods assigned. The HPMAA will be consulted as a priority as we develop this standard and aim to create a greater quality benchmark, which significantly enhances that currently regulated by FSANZ in Australia for honey.

Analysis of some specific products alleged to be pure beeswax found them to be adulterated with paraffin wax, which we have since had removed from the market. We will continue to scrutinise wax products, especially those imported, and inform retailers and regulators of the findings.

I wish to thank the members of the Committee for their on-going support and work to support AHBIC's operations and the quality of honey in Australia.

Ben McKee
Committee Chair

Disease & Quarantine

Terms of Reference for the Committee

The general Terms of Reference for the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) Disease & Quarantine Committee are to recommend to the AHBIC Executive actions required to maintain the exotic and pest/disease protection across Australia for the good of all Australian apiarists.

To accomplish this, the committee should focus on:

- Understanding the current disease and quarantine system in place for each state and nationally.
- Ensuring that there is an effective and efficient disease and quarantine system in place for Honeybees across Australia.



- Working effectively with governmental and other agencies at all levels to ensure this happens.

Formation

The Disease & Quarantine Committee was re-elected at the 2018 Annual General Meeting of the AHBIC with the following people as members.

- Ian Zadow Chairman
- Peter McDonald, AHBIC Chairman, Ex officio
- Peter Norris, Tasmania Representative
- David Leyland, Western Australia Representative
- Danny Le Feuvre, South Australia Representative
- Peter Warhurst, Queensland Representative
- Stephen Targett, New South Wales Representative
- Ashley Smith, Victorian Representative
- Jodie Goldsworthy, Honey Packers and Marketers Representative
- Jody Gerdts, Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association Representative

Activities Throughout the year

The committee did not meet throughout the past year.

After initial email communication there was no further communication until the development of this report.

The Chairman has attended a range of meetings to discuss issues relating to the biosecurity of the honeybee industry. Many of these meetings also required the development and review of documents relating to these meetings.

These meetings included:

- National Bee Biosecurity Program National Steering Committee meetings

- National Bee Pest Surveillance Program Steering Committee meetings
- Bee Biosecurity Program Teleconferences with PHA
- Exercise Bee Prepared Commonwealth exercise and National Workshop
- National Biosecurity Response Team training exercise

Issues being monitored across Australia

National

In September we were fortunate to have 17 industry members from throughout Australia trained as **Industry Liaison Officers (ILO)** by Agriculture Victoria staff. The last ILO training was through Animal Health Australia many years ago and the majority of those trained had retired or left the industry. This training was tailored to our industry and enabled the participants to gain the skills and knowledge to carry out this duty if required in the future and makes our industry better prepared for any future incursions. I would like to thank the participant for taking the time to undergo this training and the Agriculture Victoria staff for organising and running the training.

Those who undertook the ILO training were-

- David Leyland and Stephen Fewster (WA)
- Danny Le Feuvre, Ben Hooper and Ian Zadow (SA)
- Rob Arnts, Robert McDonald, Aris Petratos, Peter McDonald and Ashley Smith (VIC)
- Peter Norris and Rachel Carden (TAS)
- Trevor Sorenson and Peter Barnes (QLD)
- Brian Woolfe and Stephen Targett (NSW)
- Sam Curtis (NT)

The **National Bee Pest Surveillance Program (NBPSP)** continues as our exotic pest early detection system and continues to be run by PHA. This



program currently involves 33 Operational ports, 160 Sentinel Hives, 162 Catch boxes, floral sweep netting and Virus Testing.

The **DAWR funded enhancement project** continues with work on Floral Mapping in Port areas, Improving AHB surveillance, Asian Hornet trap trial, improved Remote catch boxes, an online management portal and standard operation procedure development.

A National Steering Committee has been formed for this program and has met twice this year. This Committee now enables improved input into the running of the program from our industry and also the state jurisdictions who undertake the surveillance work.

The **National Bee Biosecurity Program (NBBP)** is continuing to be run throughout the country and is managed by PHA. We have Bee Biosecurity Officers (BBO) employed in each state except Queensland however they are in the process of advertising for the position.

The **BOLT online training** course continues to provide biosecurity training for beekeepers and the usage continues to increase.

The National Steering Committee has met twice this year to provide oversight to the running of the program and the implementation of the **Code of Practice**. The next step which has recently commenced for the Steering Committee is to develop a system that uses compliance with the Code of Practice as a basis to facilitate better cross border movement of beehives and bee equipment and products to improve upon the current health certificate system. This will mainly be focused on the four eastern states where cross boarder movement frequently occurs.

Exercise Bee Prepared has been run throughout the year with the aim to investigate the national capability to respond to a varroa mite incursion in a peri-urban environment. A simulation exercise was conducted in each State and Territory and the Commonwealth to focus on their capability to conduct the response as a lead agency. The observations and outcomes from each jurisdictional activity were collated and presented to a National Workshop with a focus on the elements where national inconsistencies or

difficulties were identified. Through a facilitated discussion, each element was resolved and a pathway forward identified. The Exercise Bee Prepared Report has just been released. This exercise has covered off on the Future tasks 2,3 &4 listed for this Committee and it is proposed the NBBP steering committee will oversee and enact the recommendations from the report.

New South Wales

There is currently no outbreak of exotic pests that affect honeybees within NSW.

The NSW BBO role is being carried out by Rod Bourke and this is a full time position. NSW DPI have funded a second BBO position and this role is carried out by Mark Page who concentrates on recreational beekeepers and port surveillance. Work is currently being undertaken to include the Code of practice as a condition of registration.

NSW Biosecurity website: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity>

Northern Territory

A swarm of *Apis cerana* was found in the Darwin suburb of Karama on 13 May 2018. AHBIC has sent up volunteers to assist the NT department with further surveillance on two occasions this year and no further bees have been detected

NT Agriculture website: <https://nt.gov.au/industry/agriculture>

Queensland

The response to the *Apis cerana* and *Varroa jacobsoni* incursion in Townsville has continued throughout the year. The response is in the proof of freedom stage which will last for three years unless there are more findings.

At the time of writing this report, another *Apis cerana* nest has just been found at the Port of Townsville and suspect mites have been identified. We await more details of this situation.

The QLD BBO position is currently being advertised.



Queensland Biosecurity website: <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/biosecurity>

South Australia

There is currently no outbreak of exotic pests that affect honeybees within SA

The SA BBO position has been increased to full time and the role is being carried out by Teagan Alexander. The elements of the Code of Practice have now been incorporated into legislation in SA.

SA Biosecurity website: <http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity>

Tasmania

There is currently no outbreak of exotic pests that affect honeybees within Tasmania

The BBO role in Tasmania is part time and the role is being filled by Karla Williams.

Biosecurity Tasmania: <http://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity>

Victoria

On 25 June 2018 there was an interception of an *Apis mellifera* nest in cargo at the Port of Melbourne which was found to also be carrying Varroa Destructor. This nest was destroyed and removed and surveillance was conducted to monitor the area. Due to cold weather at the time of the interception, the surveillance confirmed that nothing had escaped the cargo.

The full time BBO role is being carried out by Jessica Millar. Work is being undertaken to incorporate elements of the Code of Practice into Legislation.

Western Australia

Small Hive Beetle (SHB) is still constrained to the Kimberly area of Western Australia. While this area has demands for pollination services and not enough bees in the area, a one-way movement of bees from the south to this area is keeping the SHB constrained at this time.

In January 2019 there was an allegation that Varroa was established in WA posted on a Facebook page. After investigation by WA DPIRD and the federal DAWR this allegation was determined to be unfounded.

The BBO role in WA is part time and the role is being carried out by James Sheehan.

WA Biosecurity: <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/biosecurity-quarantine>

What has gone well?

Exercise Bee Prepared has been a very successful preparedness activity conducted this year throughout all jurisdictions in Australia and exposed 273 participants to the issues involved with an emergency response involving bees and varroa mites. The outcomes of this exercise will help with future preparedness.

ILO training of 17 industry members has also helped improve our industries future exotic pest preparedness.

What could be improved?

As identified by Exercise Bee Prepared and previously identified as a future task of this committee, we need to train more beekeepers in each state with Response Team skills to further improve our preparedness for a exotic incursion.

Future tasks

1. Update the committee terms of reference to include the disease component of the committee.
2. Use Victorian Response Team model as a basis to improve response preparedness and training in other states.
3. Conduct an audit of each state area of responsibility and determine what issues confront each of them and whether AHBIC can assist.



4. Improve the 2-way communication between the honeybee community members, state and national level representatives and government representatives at state and federal levels.
5. Investigate the requirements and parameters for the Disease and Quarantine Committee to liaise with the state Bee Biosecurity Officers about exotic pests and diseases.

Goodacre

Chair: NSW Apiarists Association President - Mr Neil Bingley

Secretary/Treasurer: NSW Department of Primary Industries –

Dr. Doug Somerville

Committee: AHBIC Chairman – Mr Peter MacDonald

Meeting held 16 May 2019

Business

The Goodacre Award was presented to Professor Ben Oldroyd at the Gold Coast Congress 2018.

One part nomination was received in the last 12 months. Committee discussion recommendation that the application be considered for an Award of Excellence (AHBIC). No further action taken.

It was resolved that the term deposit be rolled over for a further 12 months with St. George Bank (Treasurer).

It was resolved that the cash held in trust by the treasurer be kept to purchase plaques if and when necessary and to arrange the inscription of new receivers of the award (Treasurer).

Discussion on the need to stratify the various awards available for service and recognition by the Australian Beekeeping Industry.

The Goodacre Award committee recommends to the beekeeping industry to recognize that the Goodacre Award be the pinnacle of awards and should reflect long term meritorious service.

Expenses 2018/2019

Name plate/date addition to plaque, Lettering for honor board – Goulburn Trophies 19/6/2018 \$44

Finances

Term deposit (St. George), Account number: 000 0308 680 698

Name: Goodacre Memorial Fund

Balance 25 August 2017 **\$4,108.40**

Interest paid 2018 **\$104.76**

Rollover confirmation certificate (25 August 2018)

Deposit amount	\$4,213.16
Interest rate	2.45 % pa
Term	12 months
Open date	25 August 2018
Maturity date	25 August 2019

Cash held by Treasurer as at 16 May 2019
\$62.95

Assets:

Honor board and carry case

Report carried unanimously by Committee 16 May 2019.

Doug Somerville
Secretary/Treasurer



Education

SAAA Education Annual Report 2018-2019 by Les Crane

It has been a very testing year, in particular in SA with such dry and hot conditions, but hopefully the prospects for the coming season will be favourable for all concerned. Listed below are events we have achieved this year and we hope it has informed our members and the greater public to the bee industry.

In conjunction with the Central Branch we hosted a Beekeeper's Development Day on 25 November 2018 at the Strathalbyn Racing Club. Participants enjoyed presentations from:

- Ben Hooper - Industry update and Hygienic testing
- Danny Le Feuvre - Beekeeping pollination cycle requirements
- Jo Parish - Research presentation: Why do honey bees collect fungal spores?
- Teagan Alexander - Disease checks – Taking slides and samples
- Bill Brown – American Foulbrood Testing

- Ian Zadow – Supplementary sugar and pollen feeding
- Michael Stedman – Varroa mite checks (drones)

Participants also viewed three beekeeper's demonstrations by Marty Gilbert and Robert Hooper, Michael Pitt and Teagan Alexander, Les Crane and Bill Brown. It was a great event attended by 97 people who enjoyed Josh Kennett's BBQ lunch and Bill and Natalie Brown's Coorong Mullet.

In March we published an article offering support for stressed beekeepers online that may be having issues. The message was also promoted on the Facebook social media platform.

The SAAA organised an Almond industry workshop in association with Almond Australia. The aim of the workshop was to assist almond growers to gain a greater understanding of recommended apiary practices, honey bee diseases and hive standards to achieve the best pollination outcomes for growers. The event was held at the Loxton Research Centre on 8 May 2019. Speaking guests included: Dr

Katja Hogendoorn presenting - Companion planting for bees, fungicides and honeybees, SAAA Executives and Ian Zadow. Michael Stedman and Teagan Alexander (PIRSA)

2018-19 Victorian Report by Barry Cooper

In Victoria, the 2018-19 beekeeping season saw a continuation of the decade-long increase in interest in beekeeping. In the last year, there has been an increase of over 1000 beekeeper registrations, mostly by recreational beekeepers.

Beekeeping Courses

This increase has resulted in an increasing demand for beekeeping services particularly for the delivery of beekeeping courses. As in previous years, they have mainly been delivered by beekeeping clubs or by individuals for profit and have focused on teaching introductory beekeeping to recreational beekeepers. Currently there are no means of assessing the effectiveness of these.

For over five years Certificate III in Beekeeping has not been delivered by a Victorian provider. Anyone wishing to qualify in the

certificate has to do so via an interstate provider for a fee that is not subsidised by any government contribution.

Through its education sub-committee, the Victorian Apiarists Association is supporting the inclusion of Certificate III in Beekeeping in the Victorian Skills Gateway Program. If this is successful, the certificate will be available through specific providers at a greatly reduced cost. Not only will this enable current beekeepers to improve their beekeeping understandings and practices but it will provide a pathway for those wishing to enter the beekeeping industry through traineeships.

As well as supporting particular TAFE colleges to deliver Certificate III in Beekeeping, the VAA education sub-committee is also supporting the delivery of the Basic Beekeeping Skills Set.

Program to “Improve honeybee biosecurity through the training of beekeepers”

The purpose of this program is to increase bee biosecurity education in beekeeping clubs by supporting selected club



biosecurity officers. It is funded, upon the recommendation of Victorian “Apicultural Advisory Committee”, from the Victorian “Honey Bee Compensation Industry Development Fund”. It is supported by VAA Melbourne Section and its leaders are myself and Prof J-P Scheerlinck (Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences at Uni of Melb) who are both members of its organising committee.

It is a two-year program. The first stage of the program involves the bee biosecurity officers undertaking the NSW Tocal College on-line course, “Pests and diseases of honeybees” and being reimbursed for the course fee upon its successful completion.

The second stage of the program involves participants educating club members about bee pests and diseases and biosecurity practices. To assist them to do this, at the start of the second year of the program, a one-day workshop is organised for them and a committee member from their club. This is delivered by the Victorian Apiary Officers, the Victorian Bee Biosecurity Officer and an educational expert.

Evaluation of the program is facilitated by a comprehensive on-line survey of both the sponsored biosecurity officers and their club’s organising committee. The first run of the program was held in 2016 and 2017 and involved nineteen biosecurity officers from fourteen clubs. A second run of the program for 2018-19 is now underway with twenty-five biosecurity officers from eighteen clubs being involved.

Royal Melbourne Show Stand

Once again, the Victorian Apiarists’ Association managed a substantial stand in the Foods Pavilion at the Royal Melbourne Show in Spring. Not only did this stand promote the economic value of the apicultural industry but it also educated the public about bees and beekeeping and, of course, the range and deliciousness of our honeys. It also provided an opportunity to provide informed information regarding the then recent controversies about the quality of Australian honey.

2019 Aussie Beekeepers USA Tour

As part of a recent month-long beekeeping tour of the USA and Canada, Victorian beekeepers, along with those from other states, visited numerous commercial

beekeeping operations across the USA and Canada. This enabled alternative operations and practices to be observed and evaluated. For example, the over-wintering of colonies in cool storage and the massive feeding of colonies to facilitate pollination services. Of particular interest and importance was how varroa was managed to maintain healthy colonies and profitable businesses.

It is anticipated that the insights gained from the tour will be communicated to Australian beekeepers via both formal and informal educational processes.

NSW Education Report by Elizabeth Frost

Field days, conferences, and non-accredited training

Field days, conferences, non-accredited training and branch meetings were organised throughout NSW through the initiative of NSW Apiarists' Association (NSWAA) Branches, NSW Amateur Beekeepers' Association Branches (NSW ABA), North Shore Beekeepers' Association and Wagga Wagga Amateur Beekeepers Club. This season NSWAA held their annual

conference in Bathurst. The NSW ABA held their annual conference in Richmond. The longest running beekeeping field day in Australia, Total Beekeepers' Field Day, was held in Paterson and drew an estimated 900 visitors. Total Beekeepers' Field Day is organised by the Hunter Valley ABA branch and the NSWAA Hunter Valley Branch.

Certificate III in Beekeeping (AHC32016) delivery

December 2018 marked the start of the transition from the nationally accredited training mapped to the Certificate III in Beekeeping AHC32016 to the updated AHC31818 qualification; an increase in 2 Units of Competency as well as qualification cost. The 2018/19 season marks a transition period to the new qualification, and a teach-out period for the AHC32016 qualification. The Certificate III in Beekeeping is currently delivered by Registered Training Organisations Total College and Hive Training Solutions/Local Employment & Training Services Pty Ltd

Beekeeping traineeships

Beekeeping traineeships are open to paid employees of beekeepers.



The traineeship leads to a nationally accredited Certificate III in Beekeeping qualification. Currently, Registered Training Organisation Tocal College is registered to deliver the Certificate III in Beekeeping as a traineeship with access to substantial state subsidies in New South Wales and Queensland.

School-based traineeships

Wollongong-based Registered Training Organisation trading under the names Hive Training Solutions and Local Employment & Training Services Pty Ltd is approved to deliver this part-time school based traineeship which traineeship leads to a nationally accredited Certificate III in Beekeeping qualification.

Education in Western Australia by Leilani Leyland

Royal Show October 2018

We have a stall in the Farm2Food Pavilion to educate the public where their food comes from. Live Display hive so they can look for the queen bee. Honey tasting for the experience of honey direct from the beekeeper. This year we had rotating businesses each day they came and sold their own brand (for a nominal fee). Guilfoyles donated beeswax sheets and wicking and

we had children making their own beeswax candle (for a gold coin donation) and a paper bee which they stuck together – very well received.

Cert III in Beekeeping and Beekeeping Traineeship

Cert III in Beekeeping courses have been running regularly through the year with good numbers in each intake. Bees Neez Apiaries have hosted the trainees for two practical sessions at their facility.

An unfunded Beekeeping Traineeship has been established with one Cert III candidate registered as a trainee. The next step is for the traineeship to be funded for those employers wanting to employ staff and receive a subsidy from the government for doing so whilst they also study the Cert III. A new Cert III training package was released in December 2018 which includes additional units of competency.

Honey Month – May Honey Festival May 26th

In its seventh year it still continues to grow. This year we chose to relocate again and join with an existing Field day that has

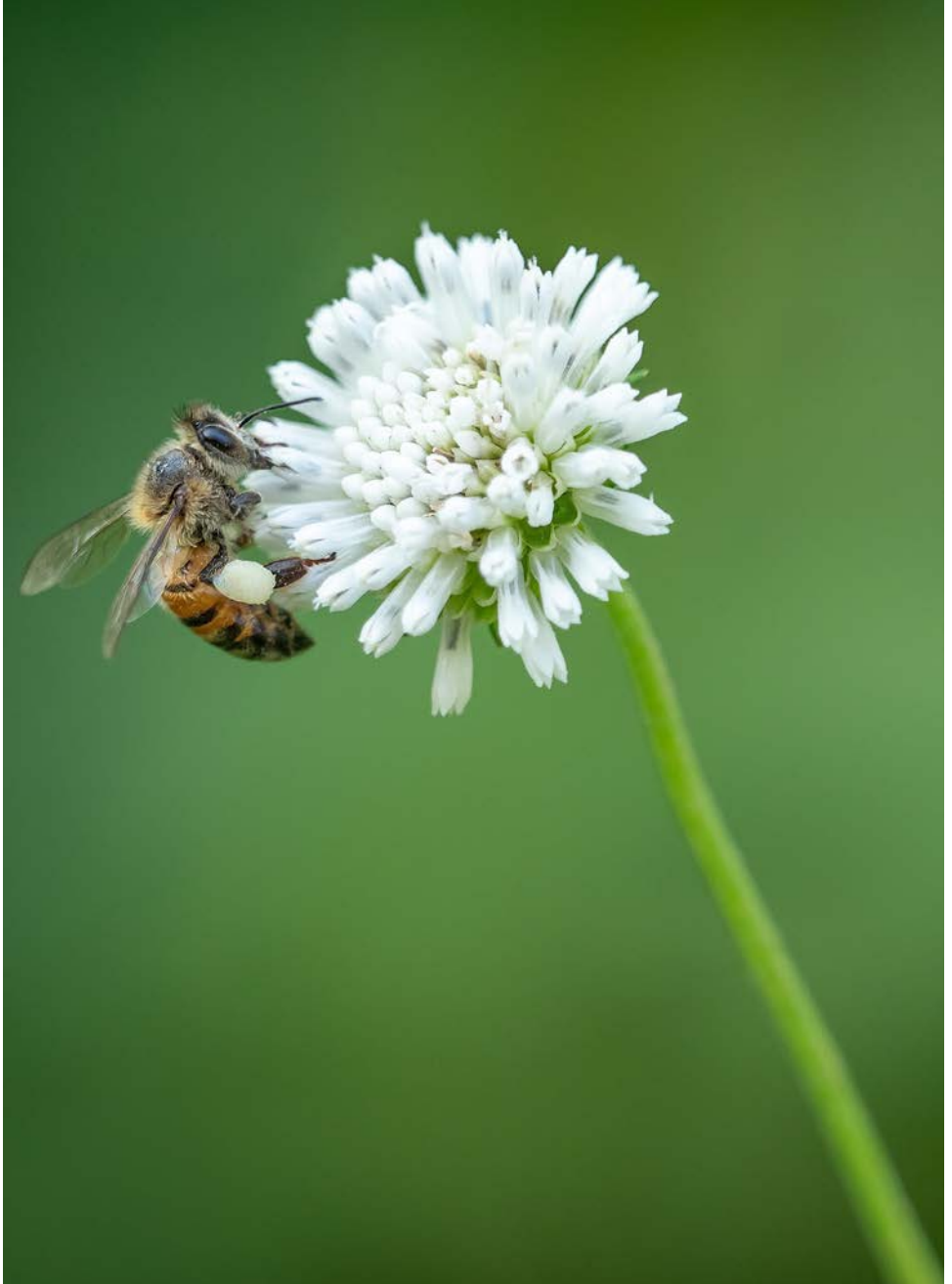
synergies with our promotion. The Gidgegannup Small Farm Field Day is all about sustainable living and being self sufficient. The numbers were great and the weather was perfect. Hard to say how many people had come specifically for our Festival but the mayhem on the rounds directing traffic may have been an indication of the extra attraction we brought. A few extra stalls promoting products using bee products was great to see together with our usual supporters Capilano, Guilfoyles, DPIRD, Scitech, Beewise, WA Apiarists.

This year we ramped up the other events offered throughout the month at various public events promoting the use of honey with two Chef lead degustation evenings at two top Perth restaurants Mandon Estate and Rendezvous Scarborough. Honey Hackathon weekend devised by Liz Barbour of the CRC for Honeybee products and UWA. Various events at beekeeper run shopfronts and collaborations with local museums and libraries to showcase beekeeping. Some events were poorly attended so next year we will need to look at ways of promoting these better.

WA Apiarist Society (mostly hobbyist beekeepers members) - President John Chadwick

WAAS continues to offer various courses. A one day course, Introduction to Responsible Beekeeping, or Beekeeping 101. We run these at our training apiary in Kensington (or the DPIRD lawns) for the hands on stuff in the hives. We have a ratio of 4 trainees and 1 mentor per hive, so they all get into the action. The course covers selecting a site and getting started, working within the hive, biosecurity and pests, installing a Nuc, managing Queens, lighting a smoker and the practical aspects of frame rotation and recognising basic issues in the hive.

Over both Spring and Autumn we trained 200 new beekeepers in Perth



Annual Financial Report

Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc.

ABN 63 939 614 424

Audited Financial Report

for the year ended

30 April 2019

Contents

General Account:

- ❖ Statement of Income and Expenditure
- ❖ Balance Sheet

Producer Contingency Fund:

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- ❖ Statement by the Committee
- ❖ Independent Audit Report



AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH APRIL 2019**

2018		2019
	<u>INCOME</u>	
33,780.72	Producer Contributions	8,501.03
9,976.38	Producer/Packer	1,718.18
1,772.73	Manufacturer Contribution	-
69,090.94	Packer Contributions	55,100.04
-	Friends of AHBIC	80,360.93
<u>114,620.77</u>	Total Voluntary Contributions	<u>145,680.18</u>
959.38	Annual Meeting Registration	600.00
3,061.66	Interest Received	3,169.70
180.00	Certificate of Origin	60.00
1,636.38	Membership Dues	2,454.57
28,883.03	Plant Health Australia reimbursements for Biosecurity work	21,645.46
-	Strategic Planning Consultations	13,031.54
-	Training Services	9,259.82
-	Other Income	106.51
-	Funds from closure of 3rd Australian Bee Congress	52,991.49
50,000.00	Grant Received - used this year	50,000.00
<u>(50,000.00)</u>	Commonwealth Dept of Agriculture and Water Resources Less unspent as at 30 April	<u>-</u>
149,341.22	<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	298,999.27
	<u>Less: EXPENDITURE</u>	
300.00	Advertising & Media Costs	283.50
3,658.18	Annual Meeting Costs	2,413.64
1,850.00	Audit Fees	1,980.00
1,150.49	Apimondia Membership	-
13.20	Bank & Eway Charges	251.57
-	Bookkeeping Fees	272.73
-	Congress Costs	9,259.81
265.45	Honey and Beeswax Testing	-
1,501.53	Insurance	1,501.53
-	Incursion Costs Paid	6,133.49
5,000.00	Border Closure and Hive Movement Policy Position Paper Costs	-
1,909.29	Legal Fees	6,490.00
997.16	Office Supplies, IT Equipment	4,662.25
828.60	Postage	1,185.19
869.15	Printing and Stationery	995.57
-	Removal Costs	621.24
11,250.00	Remuneration - Chairman	18,750.00
61,999.92	Remuneration - Executive Director/CEO	89,110.17
13,993.73	Strategic Planning Costs	535.35
736.37	Subscriptions/Memberships	772.73
-	Sundry Expenses	105.23
1,077.28	Meeting Expenses	3,152.46
1,711.21	Telephone & Internet Costs	3,218.14
22,101.55	Travel Costs	13,821.99
152.59	Trophy Expenses	570.77
2,216.56	WorkCover Insurance	1,015.09
918.18	Website Development & Maintenance	2,173.48
-	Grant Expenditure - Aust Rural Leadership Foundation	54,000.00
<u>134,500.44</u>	<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>223,275.93</u>
<u>\$ 14,840.78</u>	<u>EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>\$ 75,723.34</u>

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.**BALANCE SHEET**
AS AT 30TH APRIL 2019

2018		2019
	<u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>	
209,044.70	Opening Balance 01/05/2018	223,885.48
<u>14,840.78</u>	Plus: Excess Income over Expenditure	<u>75,723.34</u>
<u>\$ 223,885.48</u>	Closing Balance 30/04/2019	<u>\$ 299,608.82</u>
	Represented by:	
	<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>	
	Cash at Bank	
108,360.60	Bendigo Bank Statement Account	138,136.66
-	Bendigo Bank General Working Account	6,000.00
55,351.85	Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	56,520.34
33,023.81	Bendigo Bank Term Deposit 2	33,573.02
-	Bendigo Bank Term Deposit 3	80,833.10
<u>196,736.26</u>		<u>315,063.12</u>
	Other Assets	
160.00	Sundry Debtors	300.00
<u>80,000.00</u>	Funds advanced to 3rd Australian Bee Congress	-
276,896.26		315,363.12
	<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>	
29,725.00	Furniture and Fixtures at Cost	29,725.00
<u>(29,725.00)</u>	Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(29,725.00)</u>
-		-
276,896.26	<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	315,363.12
	<u>Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>	
3,010.78	Net GST Payable to ATO	3,315.98
-	PAYG Withheld Payable to ATO	11,504.00
-	Superannuation Payable	934.32
50,000.00	Grant Received but not yet spent - Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Water Resources	-
<u>53,010.78</u>		<u>15,754.30</u>
<u>\$ 223,885.48</u>	<u>NET ASSETS</u>	<u>\$ 299,608.82</u>



AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.
- PRODUCER CONTINGENCY FUND

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH APRIL 2019

2018		2019
	<u>INCOME</u>	
9,532.80	Interest Received	8,454.95
<hr/>		
9,532.80	TOTAL INCOME	8,454.95
	<u>Less: EXPENDITURE</u>	
-	Audit fees	-
-	Biosecurity Manual Costs	-
-	Incursion Costs	-
<hr/>		
-	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	-
<hr/>		
\$ 9,532.80	<u>EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</u>	\$ 8,454.95

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.
- PRODUCER CONTINGENCY FUND

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30TH APRIL 2019

2018		2019
	<u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>	
450,133.19	Opening Balance 01/05/2017	459,665.99
<u>9,532.80</u>	Plus: Excess Income over Expenditure	<u>8,454.95</u>
<u>\$ 459,665.99</u>	Closing Balance 30/04/2018	<u>\$ 468,120.94</u>
	Represented by:	
	<u>ASSETS</u>	
39.37	Cash at Bank	44.88
459,626.62	Bendigo Bank Working Account	418,076.06
<u>459,665.99</u>	Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	<u>418,120.94</u>
-	Loan to Australian Manuka Honey Association	<u>50,000.00</u>
459,665.99	<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	468,120.94
-	<u>Less: LIABILITIES</u>	-
<u>\$ 459,665.99</u>	<u>NET ASSETS</u>	<u>\$ 468,120.94</u>



AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2019**

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The entity is not a reporting entity because, in the Management Committee's opinion, there is unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are dependent on general purpose financial reports for information. The financial report is therefore a special purpose financial report prepared so as to comply with the reporting obligations under the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 of Western Australia.

The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the entity in the preparation of the financial statements which, unless otherwise stated, have been consistently applied.

Income Tax

No income tax is payable as the association is an exempt organisation under Subdivision 50-A of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 as amended.

Accounting Basis

An accruals basis of accounting is used whereby income is recorded when it is earned, and expenditure is recorded when it is incurred.

Non-Current Assets

Purchases of equipment are recorded as assets at their purchase cost. Equipment items are depreciated over their estimated useful lives.

Accumulated Funds

In the event of the winding up of the Association, accumulated funds will not be distributed to members. The funds are to be distributed to another body incorporated with a similar constitution and objectives as that of the current Association.

Mortgages, Charges and Securities

At 30 April 2019 there were no mortgages, charges or securities affecting any of the property of the Association in terms of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 of Western Australia.

3rd Australian Bee Congress

A separate set of financial statements has been prepared in relation to the 3rd Australian Bee Congress, held during this financial year.

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

**STATEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2019**

We the committee of Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc. state that in the opinion of the committee the accompanying financial report:

- 1) Presents fairly the financial position of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc. as at 30 April 2019 and the results of the Association for the year ended 30 April 2019.
- 2) Have been prepared and presented in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 of Western Australia.



Signature

Position: *Chair*

Date: *22 June 2019*



Signature

Position: *Chief Executive Officer*

Date: *22 June 2019*



Ramsey & Associates

Auditors & Accountants

A.B.N. 64 882 623 520

Head Office:
70 East Street
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc.

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc. (the Entity), which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 30 April 2019, and the statement of Income and Expenditure for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by the Committee.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at 30 April 2019 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements listed in the Notes to the financial report.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practicable to maintain an effective system of internal control over all income producing activities until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, our audit in relation to income was limited to amounts recorded. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc. to meet the requirements of its members. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of the matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with its financial reporting requirements and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Ramsey & Associates
Auditors & Accountants
Ipswich & Boonah Qld


Neil Morris
Chartered Accountant
Registered Company Auditor

Date: 17 June 2019



Australian Honey Bee
INDUSTRY COUNCIL

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